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ventilation, it seems to us that no builder or householder need look beyond this book for a full conception of the ends to be sought, and of the relative adequacy of the different mechanical contrivances for effecting them. So, too, as regards food, not only is the digestive process thoroughly analyzed, and the elementary constitution and chemical action of the various kinds of aliment described; but there are also culinary hints of wonderful number and variety, with lucid explanations of usually observed and familiar, but seldom understood, processes and results in that department of household industry. In fine, this is one of those manuals for current reference, which, when we have once begun to use them, we are ever after reluctant to have beyond our easy reach.

27.—*Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa; including a Sketch of Sixteen Years' Residence in the Interior of Africa, and a Journey from the Cape of Good Hope to Loanda on the West Coast; thence across the Continent, down the River Zambesi, to the Eastern Ocean.* By DAVID LIVINGSTONE, LL. D., D. C. L. With Portrait; Maps by Arrowsmith; and numerous Illustrations. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1858. 8vo. pp. 732.

THIS volume has reached us too late for us to say anything of it, except that it fully justifies the encomiums of the English press that have preceded its republication. We have been waiting only for its appearance, and for the completion of Barth's "North and Central Africa," to claim from a valued contributor a promised article, comprising a *résumé* of recent researches on the African continent.

28.—1. *Archæologia Americana. Transactions and Collections of the American Antiquarian Society.* Vol. III. Boston. 1857. 8vo. pp. cxxxviii, 378.
2. *Ancient Pemaquid: an Historical Review.* Prepared at the Request of the Maine Historical Society for its Collections, by J. WINGATE THORNTON. Portland: Brown Thurston. 1857. 8vo. pp. 178.

THE new volume issued by the Antiquarian Society has for its first document a monograph, by its accomplished librarian, Mr. S. F. Haven, on the origin of the Massachusetts Bay Company, with biographical notices of its founders. This, published in pamphlet several years

ago, was reviewed in this journal when it first appeared. It is, in the volume before us, made the Preface to a printed copy of the Records of the Company from its origin to the date of its last meeting in England on board of the *Arbella*. These records form indeed a part of the first volume of the Records recently published by the State of Massachusetts; but we are assured on high authority, that the text now furnished, on account of its various readings and the minute care bestowed upon it, fully justifies what else might seem a waste of space and material. The Records close with a letter of instructions to Governor Endecott, which enjoins probably the earliest action taken in America on that still vexed and perplexing subject of legislation, the use of strong drinks. Are we in this matter wiser than our fathers? Nay, does not the *naïveté* which recognizes their love of an indulgence with which they dare not trust the Indians reveal the radical defect which on moral subjects must always inhere in legislation not preceded and enforced by example?

“Wee pray you endeavour, though there bee much strong waters sent for Sale, yett soe to Order it as that the Saluages may not for or lucre sake bee induced to the excessive vse or rather abuse of it; and at any hand take care or people give noe ill example; and if any shall exceede in that inordinate kinde of drinking as to become drunck, wee hope you will take care his punishm^t bee made exemplary for all others.” — p. 107.

This volume next contains the Diaries of John Hull, Mint-Master and Treasurer of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, preceded by a Memoir of Hull by Samuel Jennison, Esq., and followed by an elaborate genealogical and historical Appendix, for which we are indebted to Rev. Edward E. Hale, to whom we also owe the discovery of the key to the unique system of stenography in which these manuscripts seemed locked up for oblivion. Except to an antiquarian eye, these diaries are curious rather than precious; they show the author to have been a man of more conceit than intelligence or talent; but it is an incalculable service to have deciphered them, and thus to have put at rest the highly raised expectations of all interested in the study of our early history.

The residue of the volume consists of Memoirs of Hon. Thomas Lindall Winthrop, LL. D., and of Hon. John Davis, LL. D., second and fourth Presidents of the Society. The former of these is by Hon. George Folsom of New York; the latter, by Hon. Thomas Kinnicutt of Worcester,—names that are in themselves a guaranty for the taste and skill displayed in these offices of pious reverence for the departed.

Pemaquid, on the site now occupied by Bristol, on the sea-coast, about midway between the mouths of the Penobscot and the Kennebec, was visited by English voyagers as early as 1607, and was for

many years the principal post held by Protestant Europeans to the north and east of the Piscataqua. Mr. Thornton, in his new book, has brought together such documents, historical notices, and traditions as throw light on the rise, vicissitudes, and decline of this settlement. We have no space to follow him ; nor is it possible to make an abstract of what is itself but a series of fragmentary details. Suffice it to say, that Mr. Thornton has shown all his wonted acuteness and industry in this work, and that it contains materials that must but for him have soon been irrecoverably lost, which will be of indispensable value and utility to any future historian of Maine.

29.—*The Life and Times of Aaron Burr, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army of the Revolution, United States Senator, Vice-President of the United States, etc.* By J. PARTON. New York : Mason Brothers. 1858. 12mo. pp. 696.

WE have received this book too late to read it ; yet we have turned over its pages sufficiently to ascertain that it ought to be read by every American who would know the history of his own country. "The other side of the story" has prevailed in the case of the Gracchi, and has been told even in behalf of Clodius and Catiline ; and now, for the first time, appears a biographer who is bold enough to perform the same office for Aaron Burr. His memory should certainly have the benefit of this ingenious, ably argued, and manifestly sincere counter-plea. Mr. Parton has studied his subject in the literature of the period of Burr's active life, in the newspapers of his times, and in the reminiscences of those who knew him. He has weighed the evidence, and found it deficient, for some of the gravest charges which have thus far passed unquestioned. He has brought to light unexpected tokens and instances of honorable sentiment, kindness, and generosity. He has not indeed attempted to prove that Burr was a conscientious or a good man ; but he has, we think, disproved the theory which would make him the negation of every virtue, and a very fiend incarnate, and, if he cannot win for him our respect, he certainly has elicited for him our sympathy. His readers will be slow to believe with Mr. Parton that Burr was "a better man than Hamilton" ; but they may see cause to admit that, had one less the idol of a powerful and late dominant party been the victim in that most memorable of American duels, the circumstances of the transaction might have been unchanged without consigning the survivor's name to so intense a shadow of obloquy and infamy. There can be no doubt that Burr very early rid himself of all